

ROTATELLER

by Joy Adams Bauer

Official Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Saskatoon
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Chartered #332 in the Rotary World

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Club Administration: Gord Menuz

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Meeting September 21, 2009

by Joy Adams Bauer

President Bernie opened proceedings and **Wayne McGillivray** lead us in the singing of O Canada, accompanied by **Kirk Fong** on the piano. **Bruce Schnell** offered up a grace focusing on thankfulness and commitment.

Gord Menuz introduced visiting Rotarian **Kathy Weber** from the Riverside Club and **Elaine Zakreski**, our guest speaker and "to be inducted today" member of our club! They were aptly serenaded with our "Hello Song."

Our Sergeant-at-arms for the day was **Kevin Wilson** who began by fining **Clare Heagy** for a 30 years ago makeup Kevin discovered while going through the archives at the recent 30 year anniversary celebration of the Rotary Club of Saskatoon North.

Gord Menuz was fined for what sounds like an interesting story involving the swamping of a boat piloted by Gord on one of the club's famous male fishing trips. Gord insisted there was another side to the story. Kevin fined **President Bernie** in celebration of the excellent job **Otto Ulrich** did in representing our club at the North Club's celebration. "Otto did us proud." Kevin noted that **Stan Hodgins** was president of our club when the North club was sponsored by the Saskatoon Rotary Club. Otto was fined for going on a cruise in the near future

Happy and Sad Dollars

Once again **Mark Gryba** shared happy football dollars to celebrate winnings by the BJM football team, and the Hilltops. **Peter Shiel** happily shared a dollar to thank Otto for the great job he did at the North Club's anniversary celebration. **Kevin Wilson** is sad to the tune of \$5 because of Lyle Pittman's impending move to B.C. However, both **Kevin, Gary Rusu and Peter Whitenect** offered a

happy dollar for **Wayne McGillivray's** terrific singing of the National anthem at the recent New York Islanders hockey games. Wayne looked very spiffy in his civvies - a suit and tie. **Kirk Fong** offered a sad dollar his piano playing during the "hello song."

Bruce Schnell won the free lunch.

Next Meeting - September 28, 2009

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Join us to hear Monica Drake speak about "Demystifying the World Bank." Monica, who has worked for the World Bank, is the wife of the former Canadian ambassador to China.

Duty Roster

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Duty Roster for Monday, September 28th at the Delta Bessborough.

Greeter -Will Arscott
Cashier - Vic Savoie
Visitors and Guests - Scott Byers
Grace- Gary Rusu
Food cards - Clive Cory
Sergeant - Kevin Wilson

Please be at your posts no later than 11:45 a.m. **If you cannot fulfill your volunteer duties, please arrange for a fellow Rotarian to replace you.**

Program September 21, 2009

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Jim Weber introduced our guest speaker Elaine Zakreski. Elaine is a retired educator and is married to Peter, who was recently inducted as a member of our club. In 1995 she established the first of numerous family centres in Saskatoon for the separate school division. In 2004 she wrote Hope for the Journey with the funds going towards the family centres in Saskatoon. Elaine has served on the board of Child Friendly Saskatoon and Columbus Boscoe Homes. The Zakreski Trust Fund is administered by the Saskatoon Community Foundation.

Elaine spoke about the "Hope for Malawi" Project. She began by setting the stage for what has become a much needed clinic in the Domasi area of the Zomba District of Malawi. In the fall of 2006 Elaine and Peter vacationed in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa. It was the trip of a lifetime. It seemed like a paradise until they reached the outskirts of Cape Town and saw the shanty towns, the dire poverty and the children without parents, shelter and often food. "There but for the grace of God go I," thought Elaine. She began to pray an "angry prayer" and asked

God what she could do as one person.

Returning to Canada on an eight hour flight, Elaine sat beside Jean Kalinga, an African woman. Elaine feels they were destined to meet. Jean was returning to Washington after visiting her family who still lived in their ancestral village in Malawi. Elaine and Jean talked throughout the entire flight back to North America. Jean shared her disappointment at spending her personal savings building a safe house for preschoolers in the village, but of having run out of money before the project was finished. Jean and Elaine were the answers to one another's prayers.

That year in her traditional yearly letter to Santa Claus, Elaine said that her dearest Christmas wish was to help Jean finish the safe house and "one day return and see for myself what can do to make a difference in the world." Thanks to Peter, Elaine's Christmas wish was granted and not only was the safe house completed, but in May of this year the Elaine Zakreski medical clinic was opened. The 13-room health clinic will serve over 3,000 people from the surrounding region of Malawi.

Elaine ended her presentation with a quote from Jean - "It has been a weekend of joy, gratitude and humility. In my African culture, it is unusual to shed tears of joy. Tears are normally associated with sorrow, and I have shed so many sorrowful tears in my life. But never have I shed tears of joy."

Peter then thanked our club for it's support of the project and the fact that donations to HOPE for Malawi can be made through our club's charitable trust fund in order to qualify for a tax receipt.

The program ended with **President Bernie** inducting Elaine as the newest member of our club, with the help of her sponsor **Jim Weber** and membership director **Bill Johnson**. A full bio of Elaine and Peter will follow in an upcoming Rotateller.

Announcements

by Joy Adams Bauer

Programma de Becas

Joy Adams Bauer spoke briefly about the Programma de Becas which is a program of the Rotary Club of Puerto Vallarta Sur. It began in 1996. The program provides funds for children to attend school from grade 7 through to post secondary.

Our World Community Service Committee has agreed the Programma de Becas is a worthwhile project for our club to learn more about. Joy is heading up a sub-committee (Pat Flaten, Jim Weber, Brock Eidem, Gord McKenzie and Murray Scharf) to start spreading the word about the program.

At age 12, children in Mexico can legally leave school and go to work. Many poor families cannot afford to have their children continue in school past age 12 – they need the children to work to support the family. In this room we all know how important an education is.

The Programa de Becas helps to provide funds for school supplies, books, suitable clothing and shoes and registration fees.

To get into the program the student must have a grade point average of 8.5 (or better) out of 10 and the economic situation of the student's family must be such that, without assistance, the student would have to drop out of school and find work. To remain in the program the student must maintain a minimum grade point average of 8.5. (they have one semester to get their marks back up if they fall below the 8.5)

Students send letters to their sponsors so we are aware of their progress. They also have to send a copy of their grades at the end of each semester to the Rotary Club of Puerto Vallarta Sur.

There are 15 students urgently in need of sponsorship this school year. Their sponsors have dropped out.

Grades 7, 8 and 9 - \$250 \$US per year

Grades 10, 11, 12 - \$300 \$US per year

University - \$350 US per year

Jim and Kathy Weber have supported three students for a number of years and got to meet them when they last vacationed in Mexico. I am putting out the call to members for anyone who is willing, either as a family, or an individual to support one of the 15 students **right now**. The costs are minimal and the program makes a huge difference. I ask you all to give this cause some serious consideration. Please contact either Jim or myself. Thank you to Dave Sundby and family and Peter Whitenect who have already said they are willing to help make a difference in the lives of young people who live in another part of our world.

John Davis presented a banner from a club he and Julia visited in Mongolia during their trip to that country this past summer.

President Bernie announced a ShelterBox fundraiser that will take place on October 20th. Stay tuned for more details.

Rotary International Conference
by Joy Adams Bauer



Mark your calendars now for the international convention in Montreal - June 20th to June 23, 2010 when Canada hosts the Rotary world at our International Convention in Montreal. We will be celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Canada in 2010. With your help we will host the best convention ever held in Canada or anywhere in the Rotary world!

As you may know, there is an excellent YouTube video with RI President John Kenny inviting all Rotarians to the convention and showing the highlights of Montreal. Check it out at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJT-a8R3oUg.

2009/2010 Club Executive

President - Bernie Sonntag
Past President - Wayne Berney
President-Elect - Wayne McGillivray
Treasurer - Joanne Fisher
Secretary - Joanne Ziola

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